

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). A method for treating HIV-associated dysmorphia/dysmetabolic syndrome (HADDS), comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a substance comprising:

(a) human growth hormone releasing hormone (hGHRH);

(b) a fragment of (a) that retains the ability to stimulate the release of growth hormone;

(c) a variant or analog of (a) or (b) that retains the ability to stimulate the release of growth hormone; or

(d) a functional derivative or salt of (a), (b) or (c) that retains the ability to stimulate the release of growth hormone which is human growth hormone releasing hormone (hGHRH) or a functional derivative, fragment, variant, analog, or salt thereof which retains the biological activity of human growth hormone releasing hormone.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said substance is administered subcutaneously.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said substance is administered intramuscularly.

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4 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said HADDS is abnormal visceral adipose tissue (VAT) accumulation and said patient is a HIV/AIDS patient presenting abnormal visceral adipose tissue accumulation.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said HADDS is dorsocervical adipose tissue accumulation ("buffalo hump") and said patient is a HIV/AIDS patient presenting dorsocervical adipose tissue accumulation ("buffalo hump").

6 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein said HADDS is another type of pathological adipose accumulation associated with HADDS syndrome selected from the group consisting of abnormal accumulation of adipose tissue in submandibular ("horse collar"), supraclavicular, pectoral and/or mammary areas, and/or has lipomas (benign encapsulated fatty tumors, either single or multiple), and said patient is a HIV/AIDS patient presenting with one or more of these abnormal features.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled).

10 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein said substance comprises human growth hormone releasing hormone (hGHRH).

11 (New). The method of claim 10, wherein said hGHRH has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

12 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein said substance comprises a fragment of (a) that retains the ability to stimulate the release of growth hormone.

13 (New). The method of claim 12, wherein said fragment comprises amino acid residues 1-29 of SEQ ID NO:1.

14 (New). The method of claim 12, wherein said fragment comprises amino acid residues 1-40 of SEQ ID NO:1.

15 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein said substance comprises a variant or analog of (a) or (b) that retains the ability to stimulate the release of growth hormone.

16 (New). The method of claim 15, wherein said variant or analog is a variant or analog of (a).

17 (New). The method of claim 15, wherein said variant or analog is a variant or analog of (b).

18 (New). The method of claim 15, wherein said variant or analog of (a) or (b) has at least 70% amino acid sequence identity to the hGHRH of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

19 (New). The method of claim 15, wherein said variant or analog of (a) or (b) has at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to the hGHRH of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

20 (New). The method of claim 15, wherein said variant or analog of (a) or (b) has at least 90% amino acid sequence identity to the hGHRH of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

21 (New). The method of claim 15, wherein said variant or analog of (a) or (b) has at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to the hGHRH of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

22 (New). The method of claim 1, wherein said substance is a functional derivative or salt of (a), (b), or (c) that retains the ability to stimulate the release of growth hormone.

23 (New). The method of claim 22, wherein said substance is a functional derivative of (a).

24 (New). The method of claim 22, wherein said substance is a functional derivative of (b).

25 (New). The method of claim 22, wherein said substance is a functional derivative of (c).

26 (New). The method of claim 22, wherein said substance is a salt of (a).

27 (New). The method of claim 22, wherein said substance is a salt of (b).

28 (New). The method of claim 22, wherein said substance is a salt of (c).

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**IN THE SEQUENCE LISTING**

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